

Committee would have been granted a referral if it was so requested. I appreciate your recognition that Section 102 falls under the jurisdiction of the Small Business Committee. Additionally, I hope in the future you would provide for similar consideration and accommodation when the House Small Business Committee considers legislation that may fall under the jurisdiction of our respective committees.

I will insert this letter in the Congressional Record as part of the debate on H.R. 1362.

Sincerely,

NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ,
Chairwoman, House Committee
on Small Business.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DISTINGUISHED VETERANS OF AMERICAN LEGION POST 143

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask the attention of the House today to pay tribute to the distinguished veterans of American Legion Post 143 in Dadeville, Alabama.

In January, Post 143 held a special ceremony to honor twenty veterans of World War II and the Korean War. These senior members of Post 143, like all distinguished military veterans of our Nation, offered their service in uniform to a country and world in need. When they returned home, their commitment to serve others and their country remained strong. The Veterans honored included Donald Black, Jim Black, Joseph Davis, Dwight Evers, Lamar Evers, Frank Farrow, Wayne Gilbert, Marvin Greer, Leon Guy, Robert Huff, Herman Kitchens, Joe McKelvey, Horace Moran, Hugh Owen, Roy Pugh, Jimmy Sanford, Paul Valentine, and Millard White, all of whom have continued to serve their community proudly through their work with the American Legion.

I salute all the veterans of Post 143 for their service and patriotism, and for proudly serving the common good throughout their lives.

CRITICIZING NON-DEFENSE SPENDING IN THE EMERGENCY WAR SUPPLEMENTAL

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the supplemental spending bill for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, but I also wish to register some deep reservations I have with the bill. While I applaud the bill for providing for our troops serving bravely in the field, the bill contains \$20 billion for programs and projects not related to funding and equipping our troops. Making sure that our men and women in uniform are well equipped is too important for playing politics, and I am extremely disappointed that these extraneous provisions are included in the bill.

Madam Speaker, many projects funded in the bill have nothing to do with equipping our

troops and nothing to do with fighting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, many projects in the bill simply don't belong. However, much of the extra non-defense spending in the bill is for important and vital programs and I find it sad that we have to use this supplemental spending bill to fund them. I say sad, Madam Speaker, because the fact that the bill includes things like \$2.9 billion for Katrina recovery, \$2.6 billion for homeland security, and \$750 million for children's health care is a testament to the dereliction of duty exhibited by the rubber stamp 109th Congress. We have to fund these vital programs in this year's emergency spending bill because our predecessors left Washington last year without passing a budget and without doing their jobs. Madam Speaker, this is a disgrace and I am so pleased that there's now a Democratic Congress to clean up the mess that was left by the Republican Congress on its way out.

In prior years, the Republican controlled Congress was guilty of even more egregious earmarks and runaway spending, such as the now infamous "Bridge to Nowhere" in Alaska. Seeing Congress waste taxpayers dollars on such frivolous projects is one reason why I decided to run for Congress and it is why I have joined the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition.

A major reason that we have all of these extra projects in supplemental spending bills is because President Bush irresponsibly refuses to account for war spending in the regular budget process. This leads to war spending being brought up as so-called "emergency" spending bills, which Congress must pass in order to fund our troops. This fiscal recklessness when dealing with funding for our troops is unique to the Bush administration. The Korean War only had one supplemental spending bill, while the Vietnam War, which lasted eleven years, only had four.

Madam Speaker, I'm not the type of person who points out problems without proposing a solution. The people of the 8th district sent me here to lead, and that is exactly what I intend to do. For this reason, I have introduced H. Res. 97, a bill to provide for Operation Iraqi Freedom cost accountability. My bill, among other things, would require that funding for the war in Iraq go through the regular budgeting process, rather than be funded through an endless series of "emergency" spending bills. In my view, this would eliminate the ability to attach non-defense spending projects to a bill that should be about one thing and one thing only: Providing for our troops.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I do wish to say that there is a great deal to admire in this bill. It provides our troops with the funding they need to do their jobs. It provides for benchmarks for the Iraqis and a timeline for bringing our troops home. And it sends a message to President Bush that he no longer has a rubber stamp Congress that will keep funding this war without questioning him. I only wish we could have done all of this without these extra unrelated projects. Still, it is important that we not let the perfect be the enemy of the good, and it is important to let the president know that it is time to start bringing our troops home.

HONORING LINDA TREXLER

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Linda Trexler, Principal of Neabsco Elementary School, upon being selected as the Prince William County Distinguished Educational Leadership Award winner and being named Prince William County Principal of the Year.

The Washington Post presents annual awards to outstanding educators who "day after day go beyond the challenges of the highly demanding profession to create exceptional educational environments for Washington area students." Principal Trexler certainly fits this definition.

For the past 7 years Principal Trexler has devoted herself to the success of her students at Neabsco Elementary School. Under her leadership the school has become a fully accredited institution, a model of instructional improvement and has twice been named a School of Excellence in the Prince William County Public School system. Additionally, the school boasts a 90.1 percent SOL pass rate in math and a 91.4 percent SOL pass rate in language arts. These awards and statistics show the unique impact that a principal, faculty and student body can achieve when motivated to reach the common goal of academic excellence. It is plain to see that Principal Trexler has been able to lead her school to reach that goal.

Principal Trexler's adoration and devotion to her students has been accepted and returned by the faculty and student body. Upon hearing about these awards, her students organized to write a song and create banners in her honor. This relationship built on respect and love for education has created an atmosphere that deserves celebration and should be replicated throughout the schools of our area and our Nation.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would like to commend and congratulate Ms. Linda Trexler on her tireless efforts to ensure that the students of Neabsco Elementary School receive the quality education they deserve. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding Principal Trexler for receiving the 2007 Prince William County Distinguished Educational Leadership Award and being named Prince William County Principal of the Year. I wish Principal Trexler, her faculty and her students continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOHN FRANCIS LANDRY, JR.

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2007

Mr. MEEHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero, Private First Class John Francis Landry, Jr., who gave his life in service to our country.

Private First Class Landry was a resident of Lowell, a community in my Massachusetts district, and was deployed with the brave men and women serving in our armed forces on